

SWALLENIA, A NEW NAME FOR THE CALIFORNIA GENUS
ECTOSPERMA (GRAMINEAE)

THOMAS R. SODERSTROM AND HENRY F. DECKER

In May of 1949, Annie M. Alexander and Louise Kellogg collected a most unusual grass forming dense tussocks on sand hills in Eureka Valley, Inyo County, California. Specimens were sent to Jason R. Swallen, Smithsonian Institution, for identification. It was found to be distinctive in so many characters that without doubt it represented an undescribed genus. Swallen named it *Ectosperma*, but he recently pointed out to the authors that the name is invalid because it had been used in 1803 for an algal genus. We take this opportunity to rename the grass *Swallenia*, in honor of this distinguished American agrostologist who has contributed so greatly to our knowledge of the grasses of the New World.

Swallenia Soderstrom & Decker, nom. nov. *Ectosperma* Swallen, Jour. Wash. Acad. 40:19. 1950, non *Ectosperma* Vaucher, 1803 [= *Vaucheria* DC.].

Type species: *Swallenia alexandrae* (Swallen) Soderstrom & Decker, comb. nov. *Ectosperma alexandrae* Swallen, *loc. cit.*

In his paper describing the genus, Swallen placed it in the tribe Festuceae on the basis of gross morphology, indicating that the glumes, almost as long as the spikelet, might point to affinities with the tribe Aveneae. He added that "the characters are so distinctive that it is difficult to determine its actual relationship in the tribe." Pilger (1954) also included it in the Festuceae, aligning it with the genera *Melica*, *Schizachne*, *Lycochloa*, *Vaseyochloa*, *Anthochloa*, *Neostapfia*, and *Ramosia*, in subtribe Melicinae. More recently, Stebbins and Crampton (1961) have placed it in the tribe Aelurop[*o*]deae, along with *Aeluropus*, *Distichlis*, *Monanthochloë*, *Jouvea*, and *Vaseyochloa*, taking into consideration additional morphological and anatomical characters. A fuller discussion of the relationship of *Swallenia* to these latter genera will appear in a forthcoming paper by the present authors.

Department of Botany,
Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Department of Botany & Bacteriology,
Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio

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